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Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities



ETHNIC MINORITY
NATIONAL RESILIENCE NETWORK

COVID-19 Vaccine Experience within the African, Caribbean and Black communities in Scotland

Dr Josephine Adekola

**WORLD
CHANGING
GLASGOW**

THE SUNDAY TIMES
GOOD UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2022

SCOTTISH
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR



COVID-19 Vaccine Experience within the African, Caribbean and Black communities in Scotland

- People's perception of COVID-19 vaccines
- Vaccination status and vaccine user journey
- Influential factors on vaccine decision
- Experiences of COVID-19 vaccines



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Research Team

Researchers:

- Dr Josephine Adekola (Lead Researcher)
- Dr Thelma Okey-Adibe (RA)
- Dr Jamila Audu (RA)
- Aliyu Abubakar (Student Intern)

Co-Chairs

- Dr Charmaine Blaize
- Margaret Lance

Collaboration with – Community groups, places of worship, community gatekeepers and members of the public.



Data collection: 1st of February to the 30th of April 2022

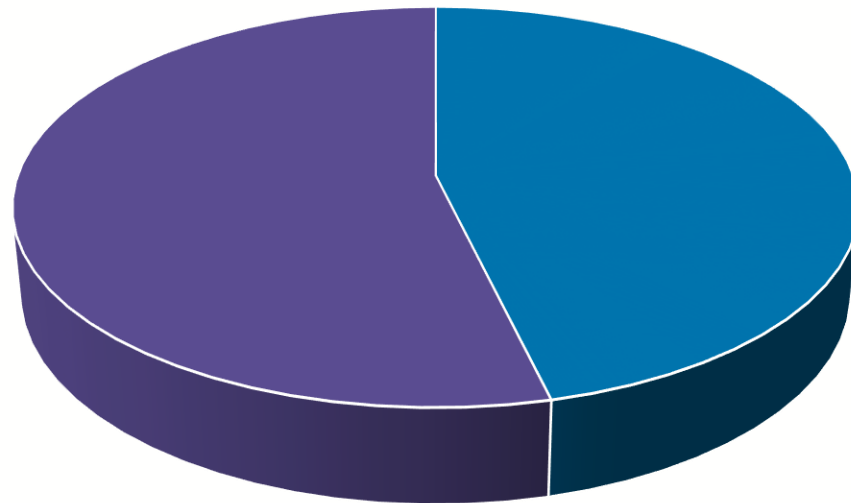
Triangulated method:

- Survey – 408 completed
- One-to-one interviews – 26 completed
- Focus group – 5 focus groups (involving 30 people)



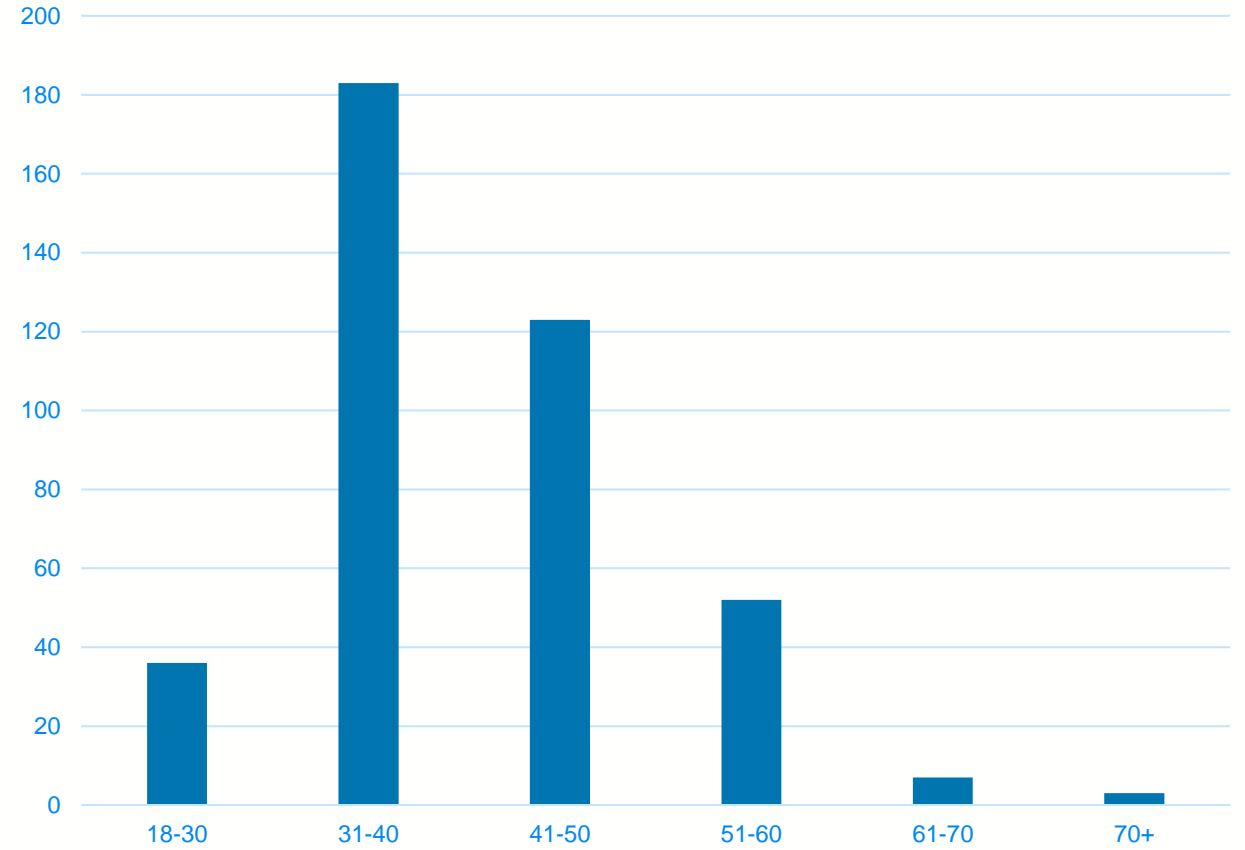
Participants characteristics – Gender & Age

Gender



■ Female ■ Male

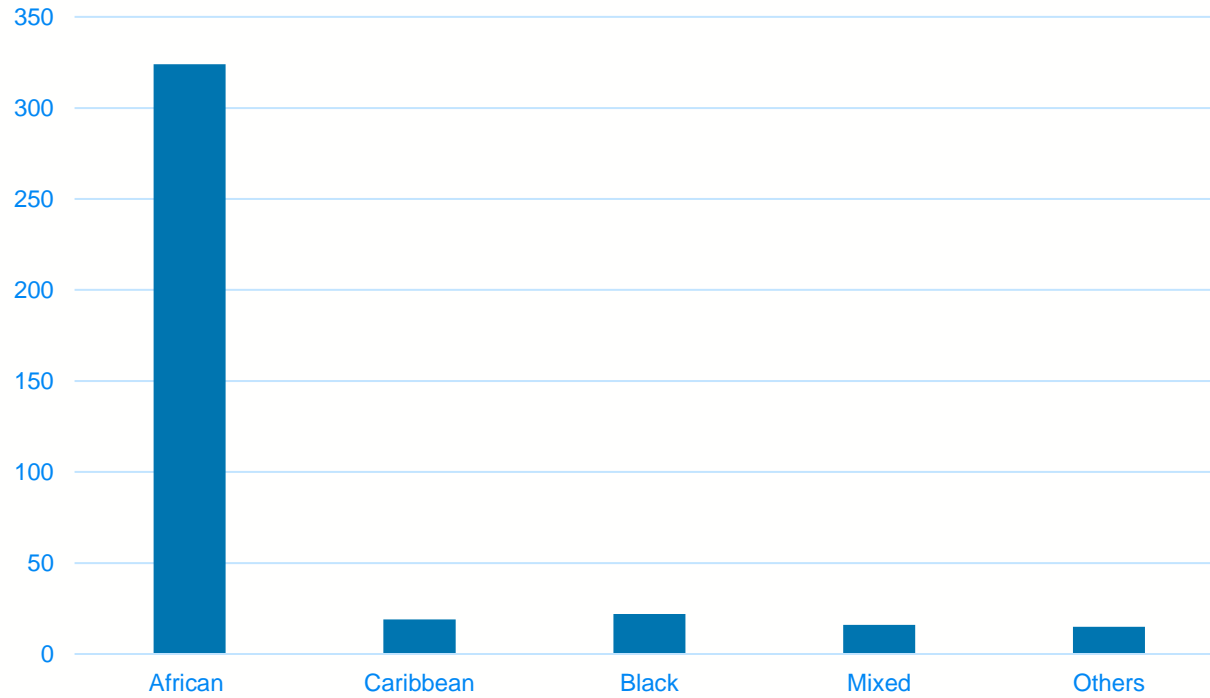
Age



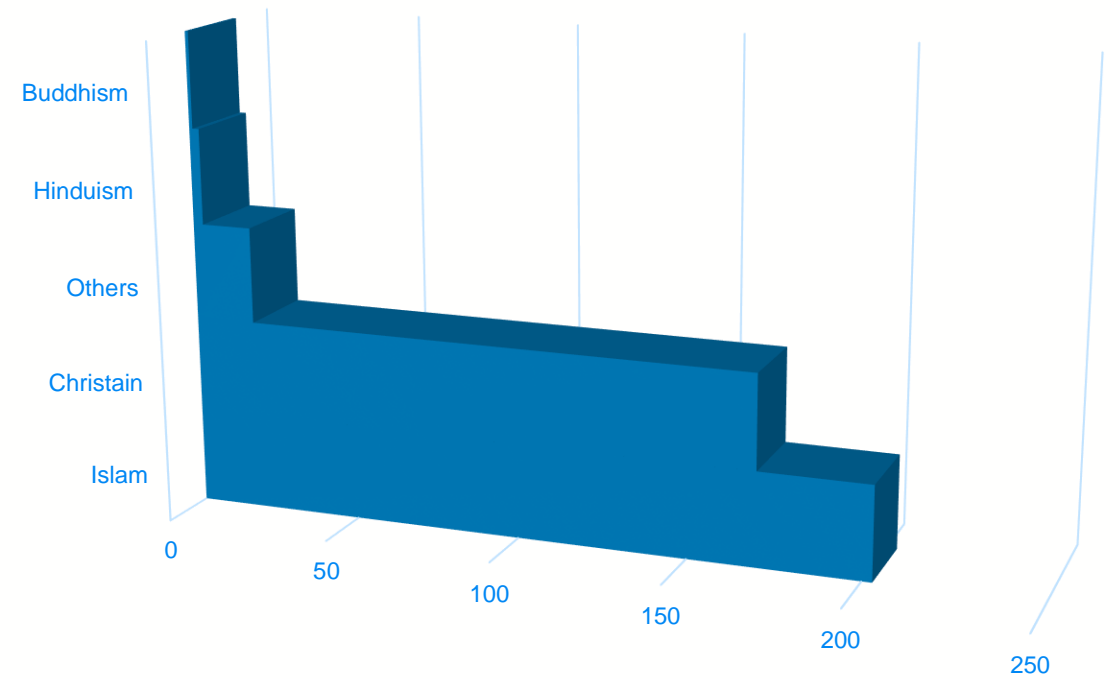


Participants characteristics - Background

Background

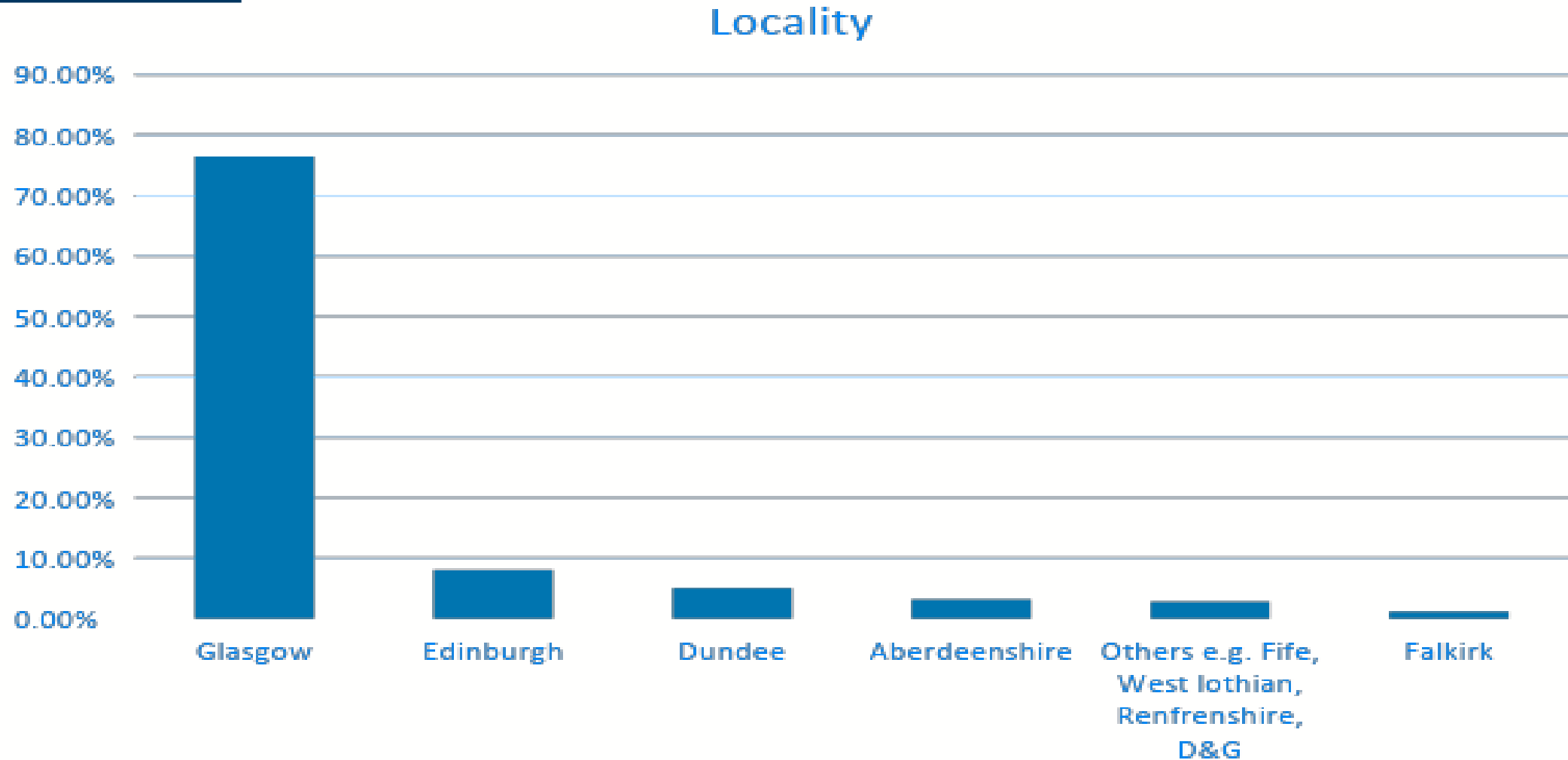


Religion





Participants characteristics - Locality

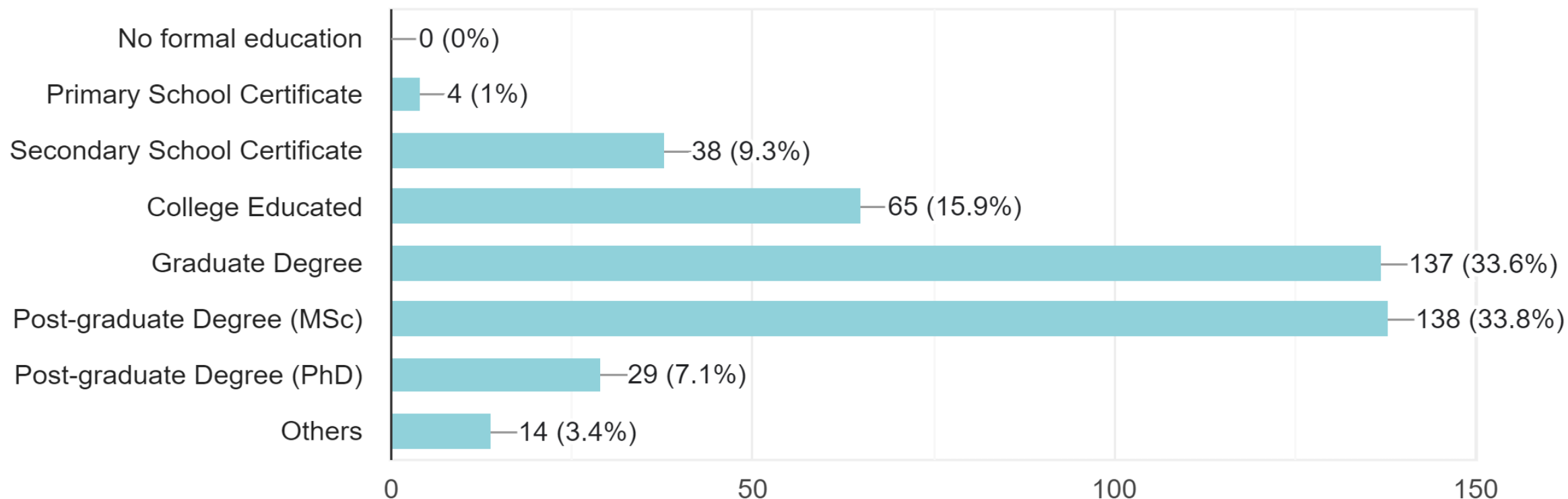




Educational qualification

8. What is your highest educational qualification?

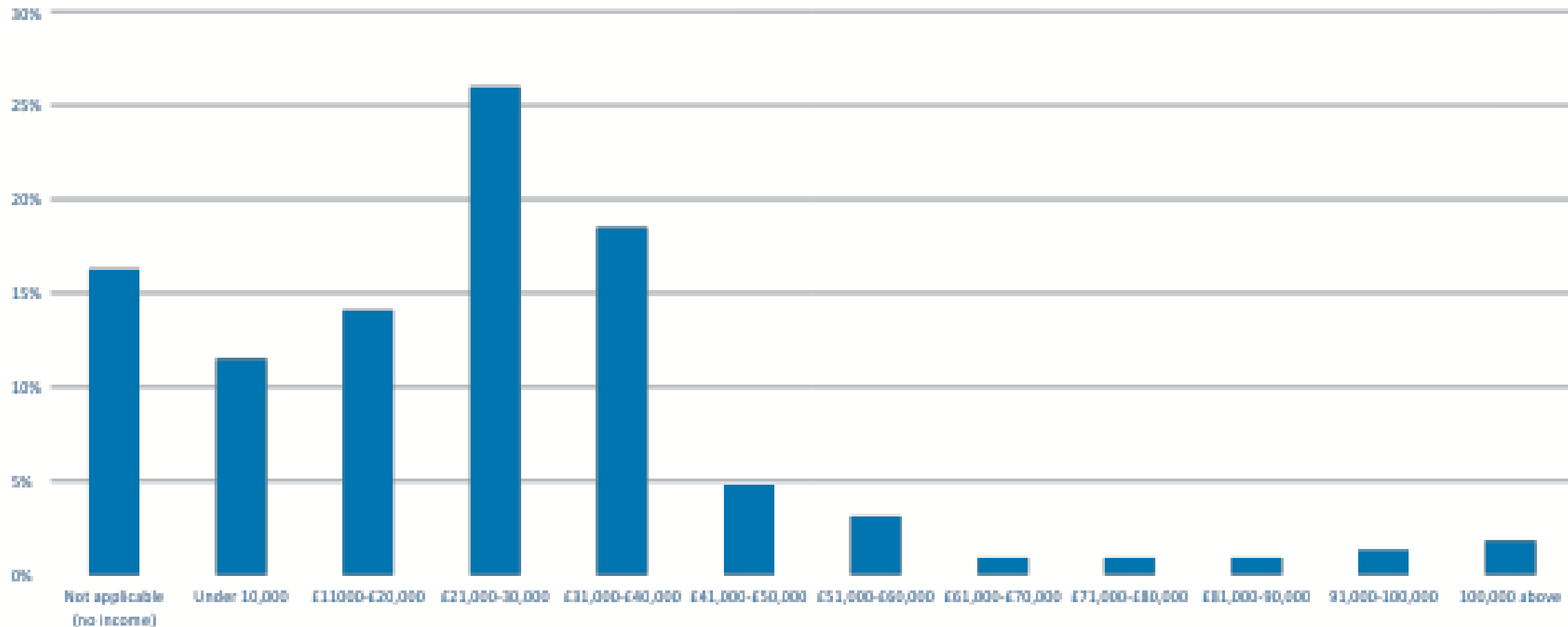
408 responses





Economic background

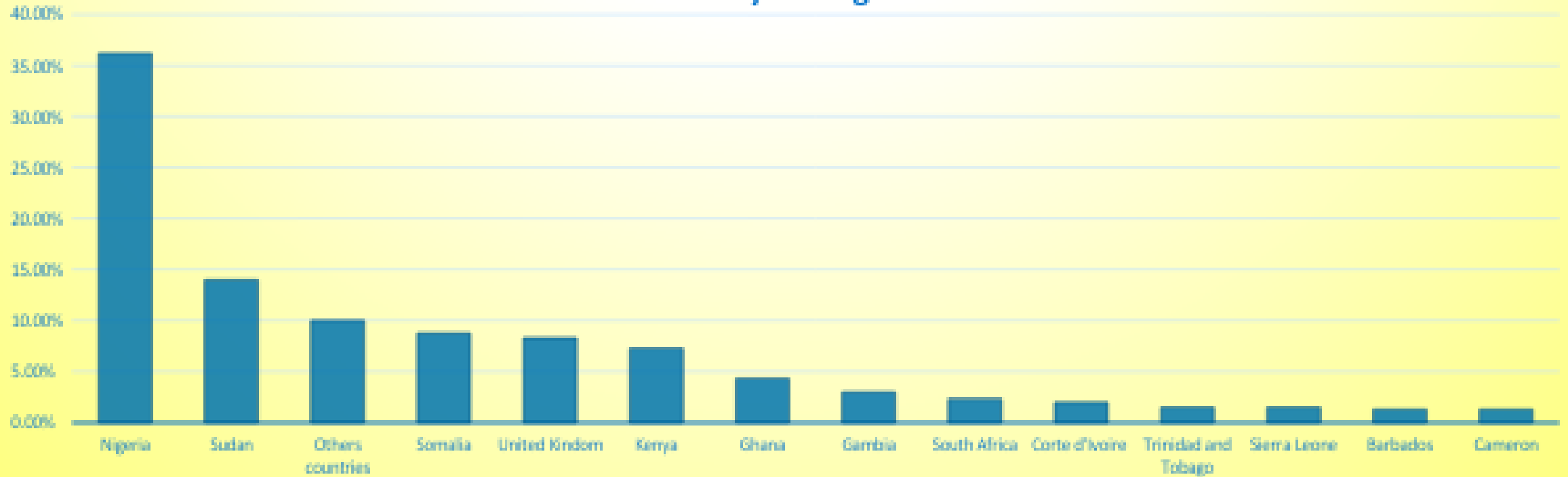
Annual Income





Country of Origin – over 30 countries

Country of Origin



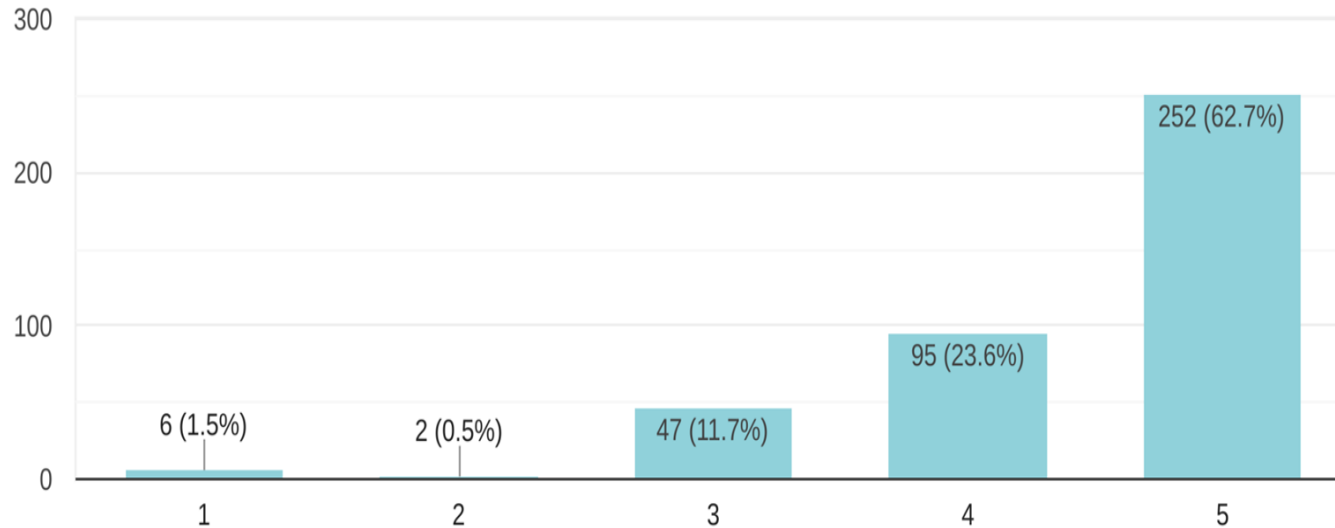


Findings



Descriptive Analysis:

On a scale of one to five, to what extent do you agree with the following statement — “I want to support with the fight against COVID-19”



Qualitative analysis

- Follow government COVID-19 regulations.
- Spread correct information
- Stay aware
- Groups: Provide needed safety equipment e.g., facemask, and support affected families

Potential barriers to adherence

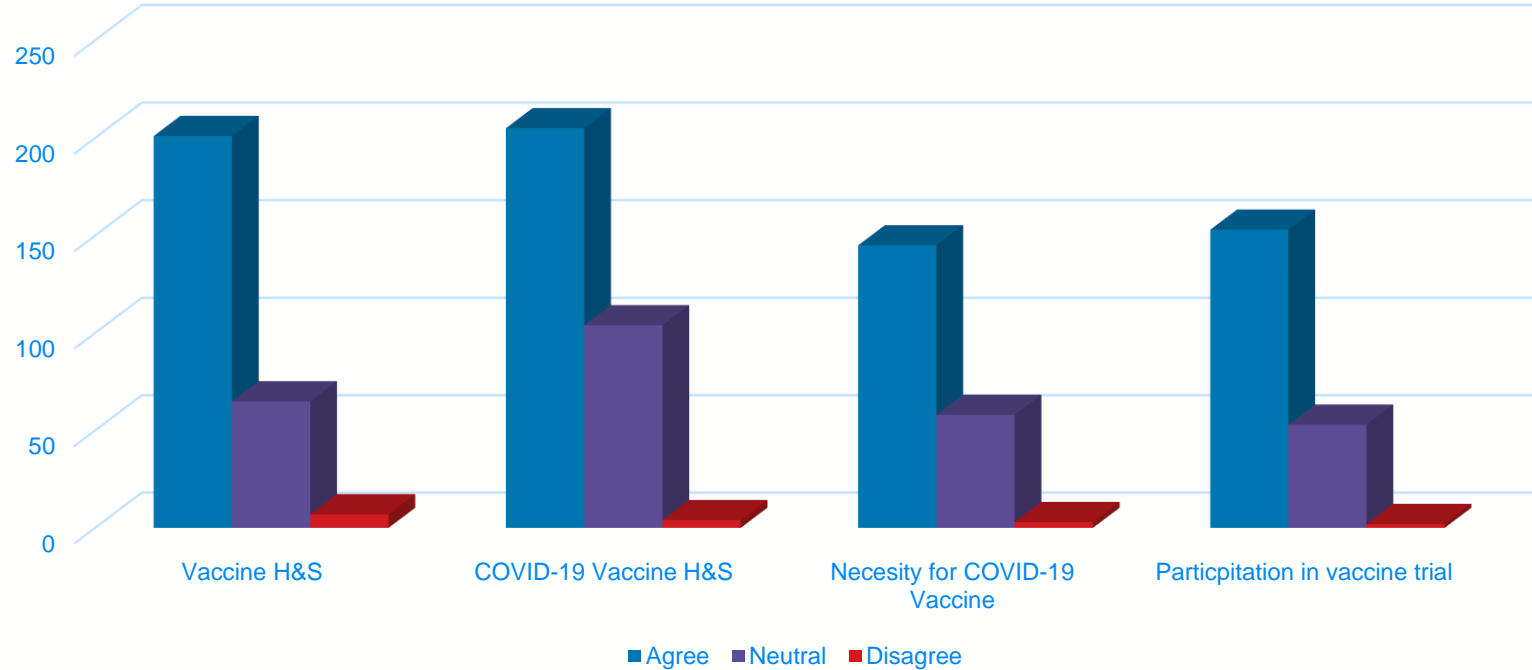
- **Can't afford to stay at home** esp. with no alternative source of income (e.g., those on zero hour contract)



Descriptive Analysis:

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the necessity and Health & Safety (H&S) of vaccines?

Vaccine perception average



Qualitative Analysis

- Reduce rate of spread of covid-19
- Boost immunity
- Reduce effect of infection
- Protect vulnerable groups
- Reduce fatality rate
- Emphasised the relevance of non-pharmaceutical interventions.

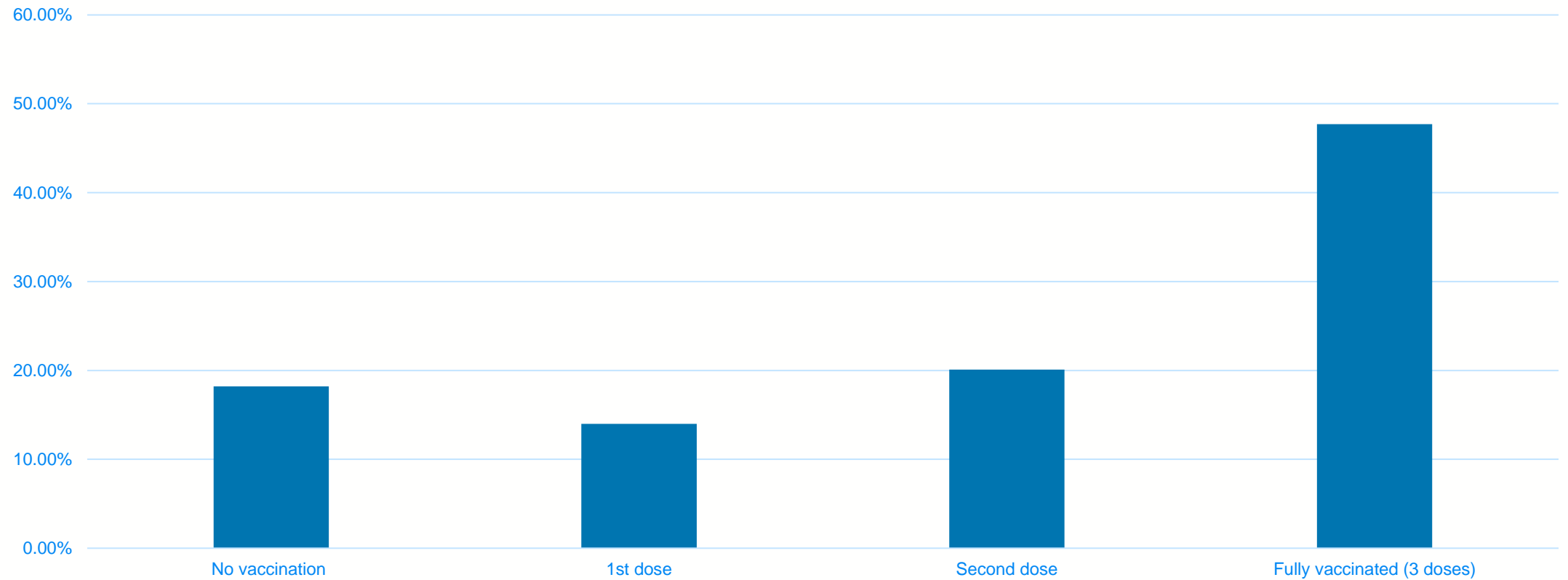


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Descriptive Analysis:

What is your vaccination status?

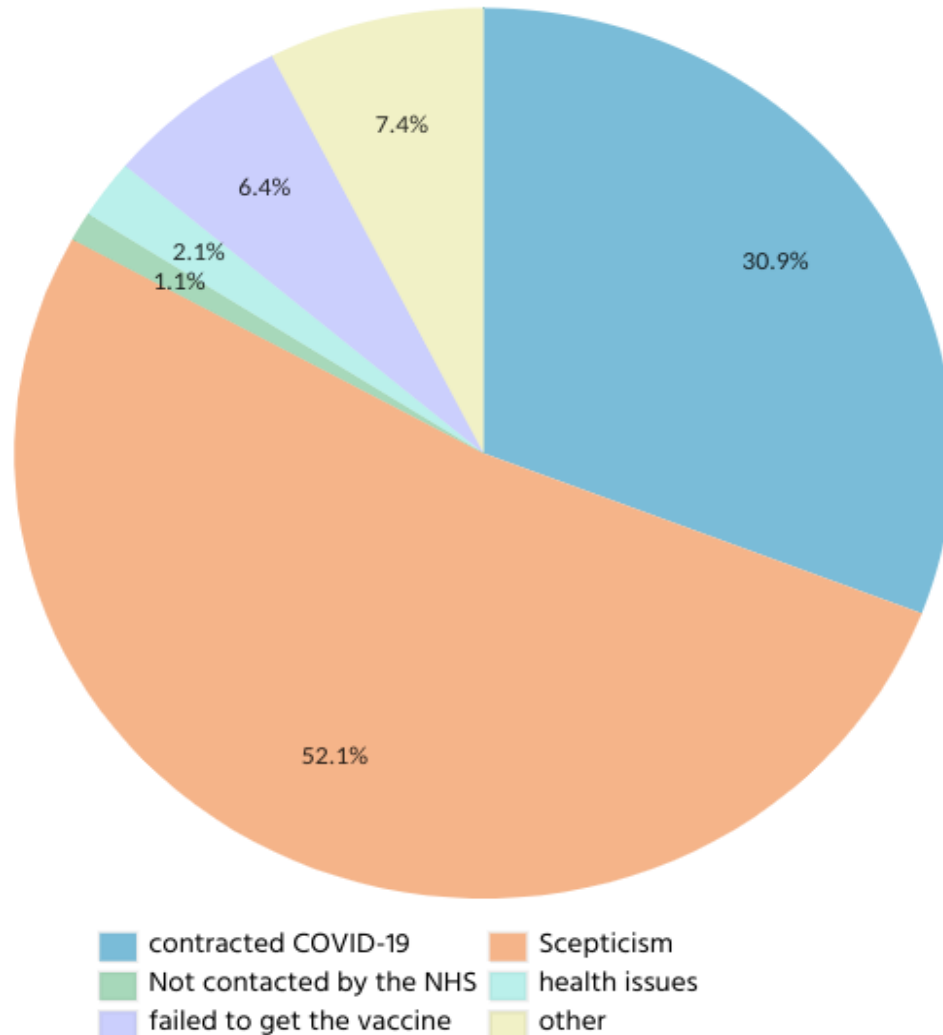
COVID-19 Vaccination status – 407 responses





Descriptive Analysis:

If you are not fully vaccinated, please explain your reasons?



Qualitative Analysis

For:

- Job related reason
- Trust in science
- Underlying condition
- Self protection
- Reduces severity
- Travel protocols
- Protect vulnerable groups
- Civic duty

Against

- Side effects
- Question the efficacy/effectiveness of vaccines long term/infection
- Lack of confidence in the vaccine
- Conspiracy/social media

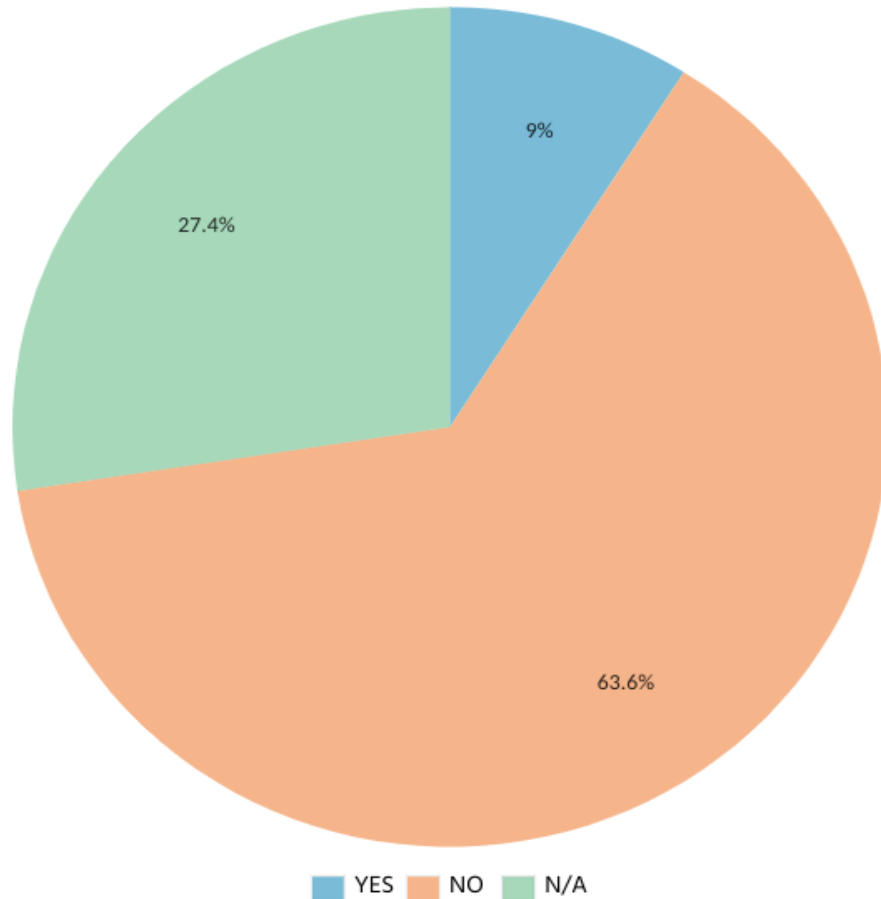
Others

- Can't afford to be sick (e.g., single parents, zero-hour contract)
- Social pressure from skeptical family and friends



Descriptive Analysis:

Was there a delay in taking up either your first, second and third dose of your vaccines on your appointed day and time?



Quantitative and Qualitative analysis

- Missed appointment due to infection
- Indecision
- Didn't get invitation due to change of address
- Some believed they developed immunity from COVID-19 infections



COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy across doses

Unvaccinated (no dose taken):

- Lack of vaccine confidence
- Relying on natural immunity

One dose:

- Took the first dose as a civic duty
- Perceived forced vaccination related to work
- Negative side effects

Two doses:

- Worry about too many doses
- Immunity from COVID-19 infection
- Emerging variants
- People not getting questions about side effects answered.

Three doses:

- Vaccine confidence
- Trust in official advice and authorities.



Barriers To Accessing Covid-19 Vaccines - Science And Public Policy Related Issues

Trust in health system

- Blacks were sent to the front lines
 - Some with underlying illness where not given the consideration they needed and therefore, more likely to be severely affected by C-19.
- Government officials breaking rules
- Forced vaccination through work – ‘no jab, no job’, hence perceived ulterior motive.
- Following the George Floyd period
- PCR Test showing wrong result

Experiences post vaccination

- People not getting questions answered about side effects
- Still get COVID-19 after vaccination

Misinformation and conspiracy

- Fear-mongering – daily statistics on number of people dying
- Conflicting and changing information
- Conspiracy
 - Blacks cannot get COVID-19/survives in winter.
 - Religious conspiracy - religion – 666/antichrist, social media (dog parking).
 - Influential community leaders – linking vaccine to 666

Communication gap

- No NHS expert was available to come to community discussions
- No vaccine choice
- GP too blunt



BARRIERS TO ACCESSING COVID-19 VACCINES

Language

- Language – applauding nurses and then losing their jobs
- Labelling of people hesitant to take the vaccine
- People not being able to ask questions
- Zero empathy if you are struggling

Undocumented migrant

- No address, no invitation
 - The link between PHS and immigration
 - Rwanda, Nigeria Refugee policy

Lack of opportunities

- People forced to work because of family responsibilities and socio-economic conditions
- Most organisations helping ethnic minority signpost them to care work, cleaning etc
- People do not know why they are not getting opportunities

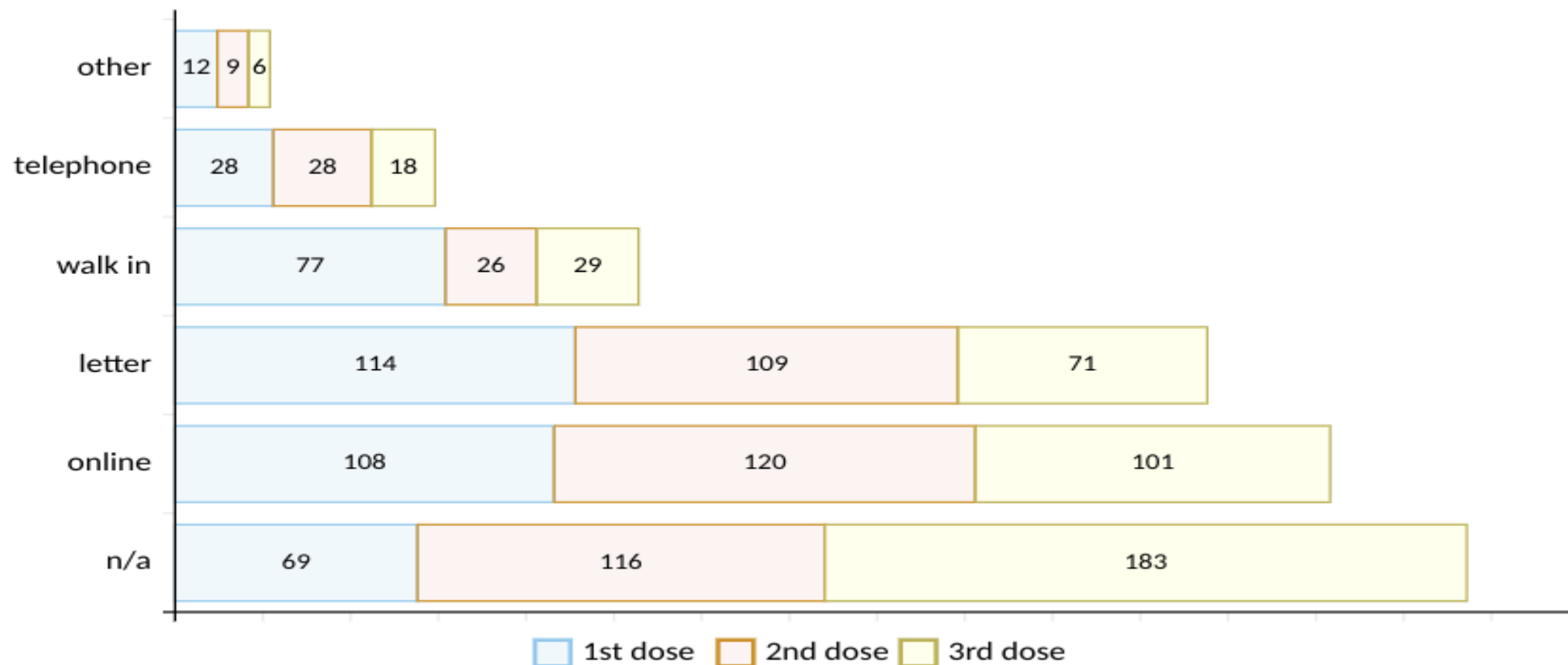
Other issues

- Vaccination back home is not recognised here – Immigrant are travellers



Descriptive Analysis:

How did you get your appointment for each dose
of your COVID-19 vaccine?

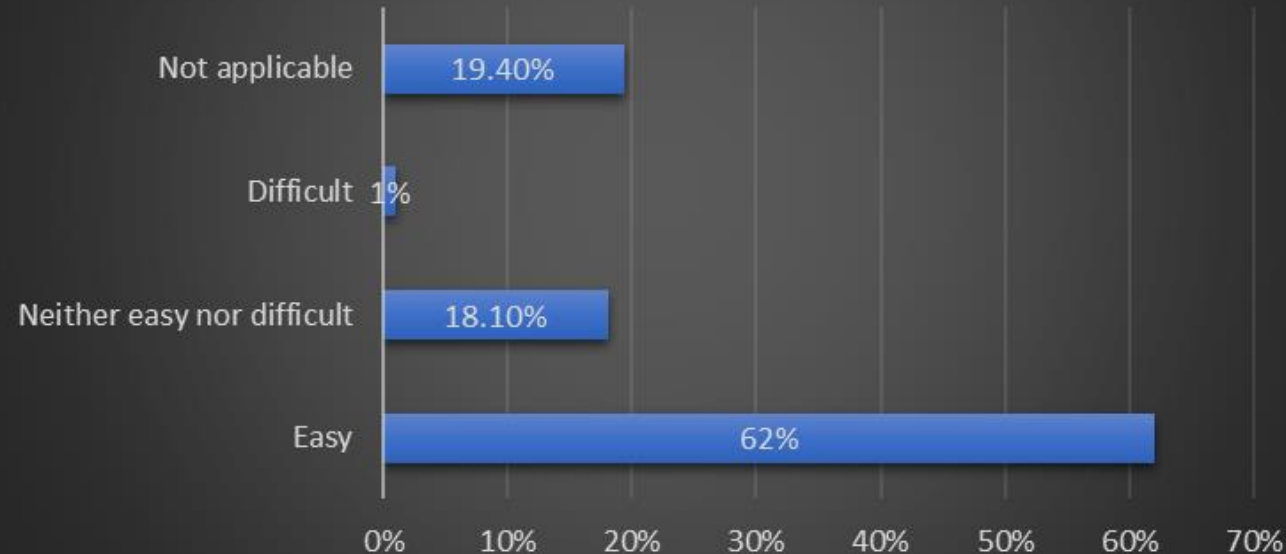




Descriptive Analysis:

How can you best describe the process of securing a COVID-19 vaccination appointments?

Ease of COVID19 vaccine booking appointment



- Most respondents agreed that the booking process was not difficult.
- The only exception is the call-in appointment due to long wait time

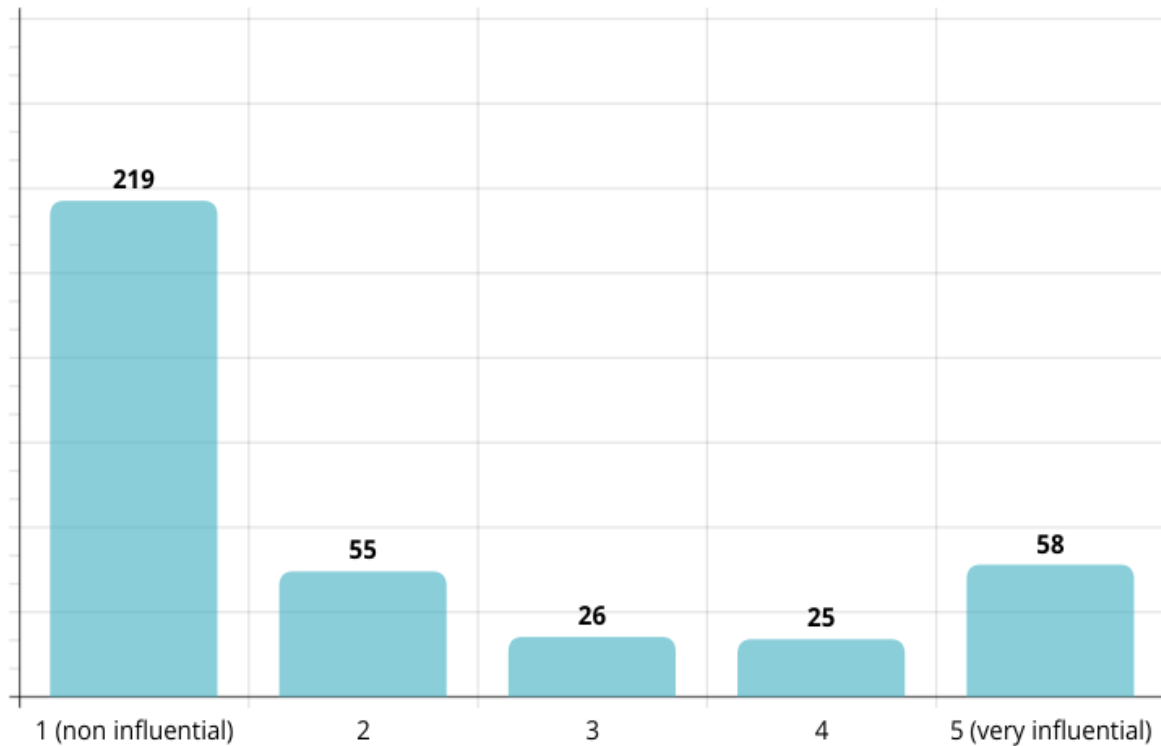
USER JOURNEY – QUALITATIVE DATA

- Professionalism and friendliness of staff
- Vaccine accessibility was good in terms of ease and distance
- Efficient process



Descriptive Analysis:

What extent did the method of COVID-19 vaccine booking appointments influence your vaccine uptake?



Non- influential

- Made up mind to take the vaccine regardless of booking method.
- Had COVID19 on day of appointment

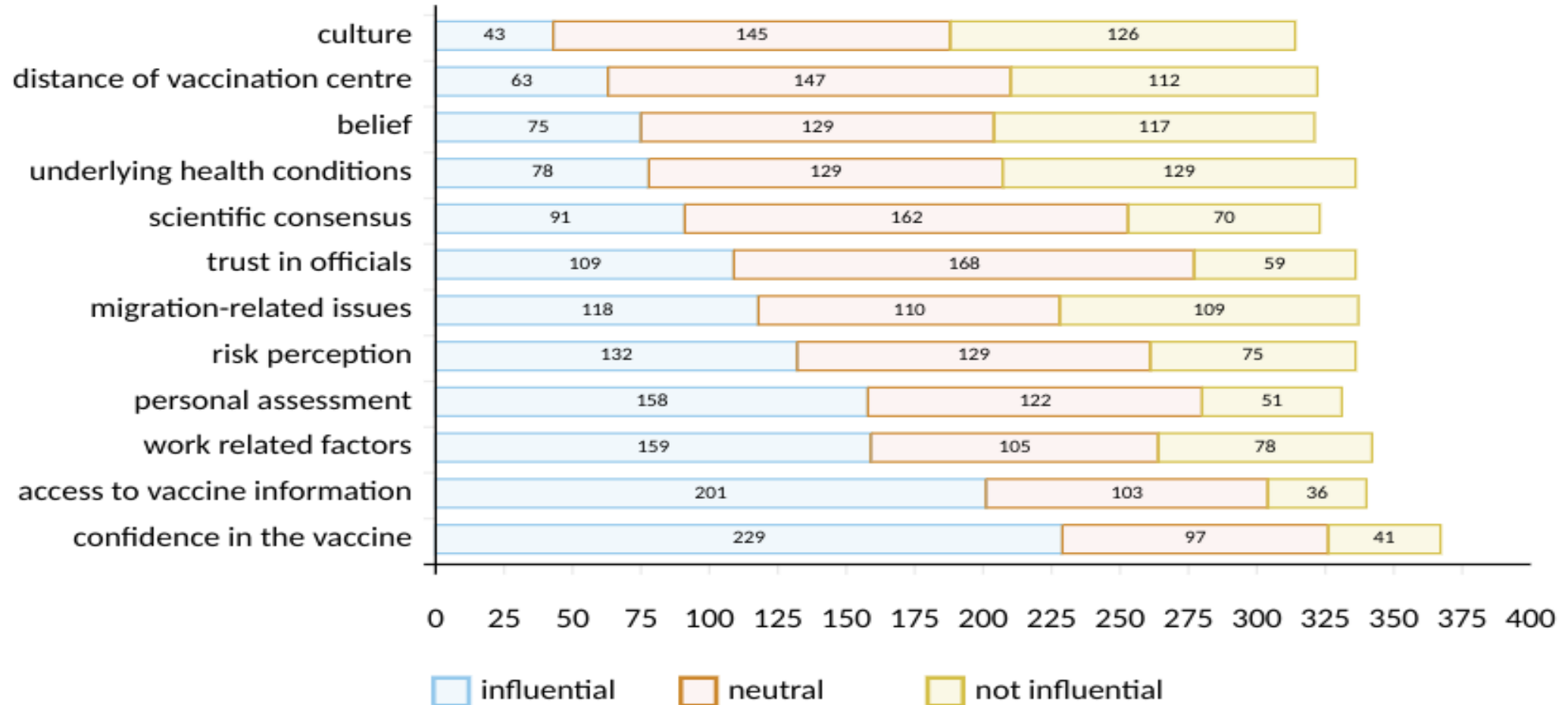
Influential

- Provided useful vaccine information
- Provided appointment time, date and vaccine
- Ease of getting an appointment
- Acted as a reminder (e.g., the blue colour of the letter envelope)



Descriptive Analysis:

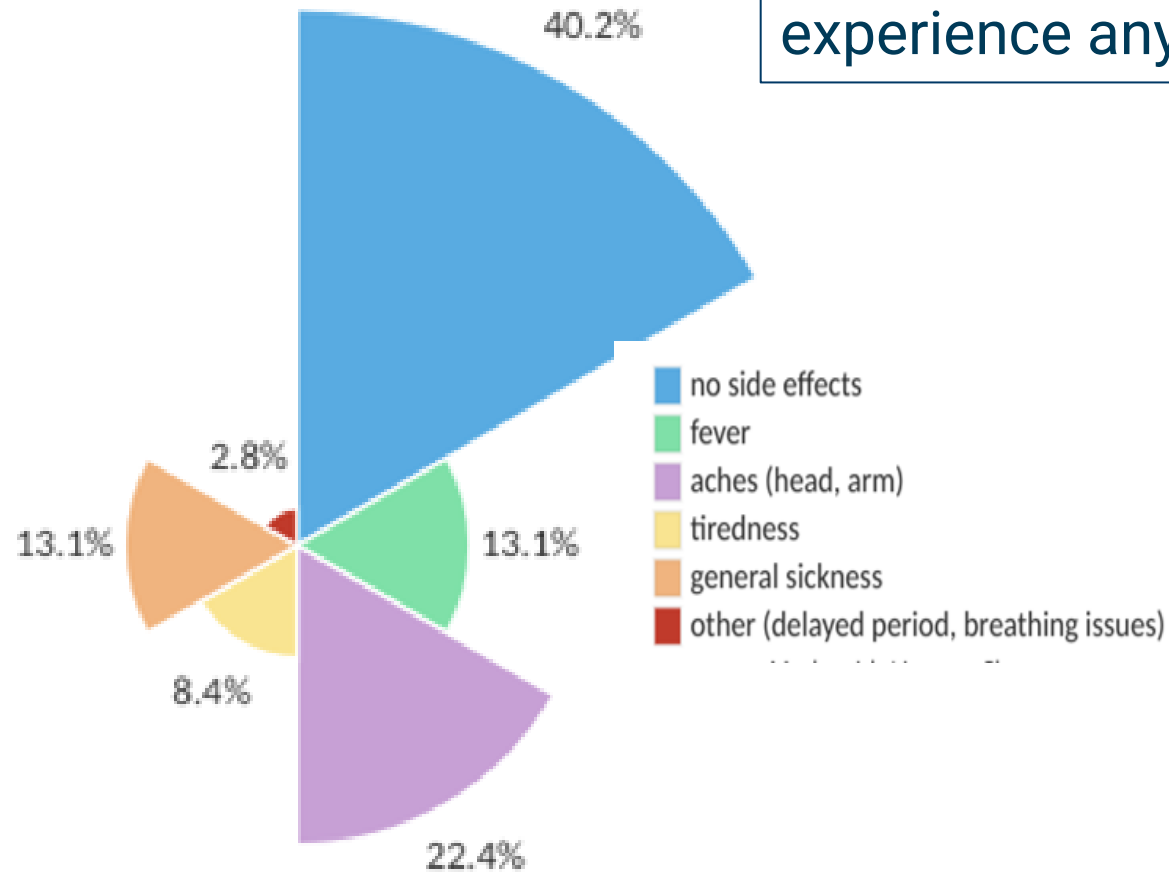
Which of the following factors influenced your decision to take the first and/or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?





Descriptive Analysis:

Please describe your experience of taking COVID-19 vaccine after your first, second and/or booster dose of the vaccination. Was this a smooth experience or did you experience any side effects, etc.?

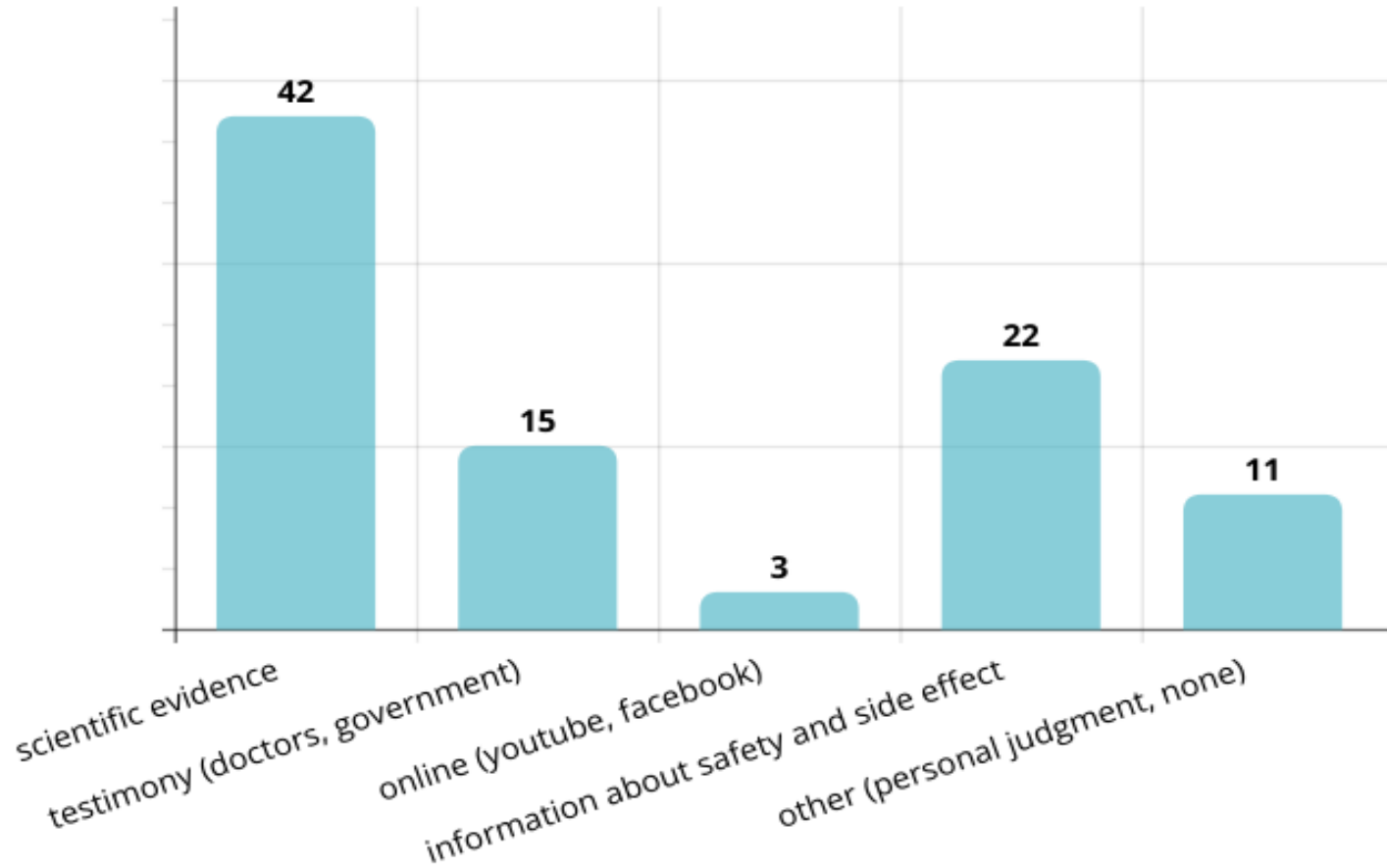


Qualitative:

- Main symptoms include headache, fever, body pains, dizziness, swollen arms and mild pains on the vaccinated arm.
- Those with side effects did not receive the desired attention



What type of information do you seek or consider important when deciding to take or not take a COVID-19 vaccine?



Qualitative data

- Safety information
- Official vaccine information
- Vaccine side effects
- Long-term effects of the vaccine
- Covid-19 statistics – infection, mortality, efficacy, etc.



Policy Recommendation

1. Policy and community commitment

- High-level political commitment from the Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland, Local Authorities and Scotland's 14 Health Boards and social unity at the community levels.
- Inclusion and diversity of people and groups in policy making (e.g., the Scottish Governments Race Equality Framework and Race Equality Action Plans) that directly affects us.
- Recognise the heterogeneity of the Black, African and Caribbean communities in future vaccination campaigns and other public health provision in a similar way that the White racial classification is disaggregated into Scottish, British, Irish, Polish etc.



Policy Recommendation

2. Providing accurate information and addressing misinformation and conspiracies

- Continue awareness raising within local communities about the benefits of vaccines to health and wellbeing.
- Provide relevant information to the African and Caribbean communities
- Address concerns and questions raised by members of the community post-vaccination
- Dispel myths and conspiracies linked to religious and cultural beliefs
- Flag misinformation
- Encourage training that builds intellectual virtue of the population



Policy Recommendation

3. Expand micro-targeted vaccination campaign

- Expand flexible and targeting vaccination campaign at specific groups with different campaigns e.g., door to door, community events, schools', or places of worship etc
- Recruit and train community vaccine ambassadors
- Open door policy for late uptake
- Integrate vaccination into the normal standard NHS operations



Policy Recommendation

4. Address inequity in access to health and care service provision in Scotland

- Provide an emergency fund to address socio-economic reasons for vaccine hesitancy
- Address disadvantage, racism, and discrimination in all sphere of society
- Invest and provide scholarships to train more Black professionals in health and care service provision (e.g., doctors and nurses) to diversify the workplace

5. Build trust with the community

- Build partnership with various community assets
- Profile and invest in grass root community groups that serve the community in different capacity
- Fund further research to better understand the needs and priorities of the communities.

6. Address poverty



Future research

- Further investigation is required to understand whether the issues around barriers to accessing COVID-19 vaccines within the African, Caribbean, and Black communities is an isolated issue or common issue in all health areas.
- Learn lessons from other African countries where high level successes has been recorded.



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Questions
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